

Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, December 8, 2009
At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners: Steve Cardon, David Davis, Kris Dighe, Beri Kravitz, Dominique Lorang-Leins, Christine Davidson-McCord and Tolu Odunlami

Absent: Seth Adams, Faith Klareich

Guests: Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management

Susan Swift, City of Rockville Community Planning & Development Services

Matt Shanks, City of Rockville Community Planning & Development Services

Meeting Commencement

The meeting was convened at 7:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 10, 2009 meetings were reviewed and unanimously approved by acclamation.

Chapter 5 – Green Building Ordinance Status by Susan Swift and Matt Shanks

The Community Planning and Development Services (CPDS) Department has the lead on developing the City's green building program with Environmental Management in support.

CPDS representatives described the most recent draft of Articles 8 and 14 of the green building ordinance. CPDS indicated that it has gone back to the original proposed version of Article 8 and modified that in preparation for a reproposal, now scheduled to take place at the January 25, 2010 meeting of the Mayor and Council (at the Twinbrook Community Center). The 2009 ICC recommendations have been incorporated and those local amendments that are still appropriate have been retained. CPDS is reluctant to include the entire energy star package in the draft but is open to including specific portions of it.

Article 14 is now triggered by a proposed new building or renovation of 7,500 gross square feet or more. Flexibility to use a LEED alternative has been restored. These proposals will be evaluated similar to a code modification request under the current ordinance. Recycling construction debris and materials will be authorized as a credit but will not be required of all developers. Commercial properties will be required to install energy star appliances in multi-residential buildings and office break rooms and kitchens. Single-family homes are required to install energy star appliances, HVAC equipment, ducts, thermostats, envelop, windows, and insulation. Fireplaces will be allowed in new homes. Portions of the indoor air table of requirements will be retained if not redundant to the incorporated ICC recommendations. The Commission will consider these at the next meeting of the Sustainable Design and Energy Committee on December 15, 2009.

Home commissioning has been dropped from the draft. The City intends to encourage but not require purchasers to take on this quality control step. CPDS expects to release the draft to the public in early January 2010.

Environmental Management Report by Mark Charles

Recruitment – Environmental Management has offered the environmental specialist position to the leading candidate. Negotiations are ongoing and should be completed in a week or so.

Stormwater Ordinance - Environmental Management is working diligently on a comprehensive redraft of the City's stormwater management ordinance and regulations pursuant to newly established State requirements adopted in May 2009 under the Maryland Stormwater Act of 2007. Rules promulgated by the Maryland Department of the Environment require all Cities and Counties to revisit and improve their existing law by May 2010. In addition, Rockville transmitted its draft ordinance to MDE on November 10, 2009. No comments have been received to date. Internal discussions are proceeding. Commissioners with comments or questions should forward them to Jake Marren of the Environmental Management Division. City staff intends to bring these revisions to the Mayor and Council for Introduction on the 25th of January.

Recycling – All of Rockville is now operating under the new recycling and refuse wheeled cart system. Commissioners should raise any comments or questions they have to the Environmental Management Division.

Four-City Environment Commission Meeting Report led by Kris Dighe

The Environmental Commissions of Rockville, Gaithersburg, Annapolis and Bowie met on December 3, 2009 at the Bowie City Hall. The meeting served as a useful forum for an exchange of ideas, procedures and priorities. Recruiting volunteers and Climate Change issues were particularly prominent. Commissioners Dighe, Cardon and Odunlami attended for Rockville. The group is considering another meeting in about 6 months and Rockville may consider hosting that meeting.

Committee Reports

Sustainable Development and Energy Committee – Met on 11/24. Draft green building ordinance provisions were discussed in detail with City staff. The next meeting of the committee will be held on 12/15 to conclude discussions on the new proposed ordinance.

Watershed Protection Committee – No meeting. Committee members are reviewing the City's salt practices and policies, and several attended a public meeting on watershed program implementation sponsored by Montgomery County.

Outreach and Education Committee – The Committee did not meet in November but has a meeting scheduled for December 14, 2009.

New Business – The Commission currently has a single vacancy. Prospective Commissioners (2) should be invited to attend the next meeting in January.

In addition, members were encouraged to google a *Cash for Clunker Appliances* being administered by the federal government and learn more about it.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 7:30 pm** at **Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.

Post-Meeting Action Items:

- Mark will check with the City Clerk to see if there are more Commission or Committee applicants on file.
- Commissioners are to review the draft of Chapter 19 (stormwater management) and provide City staff with any comments they have.
- The Outreach Committee will get a specific request into Mark Charles to purchase with City funds.